

April 9, 1973

PRESIDENT: Very good, Senator Whitney, back to you. Excuse me, Senator Simpson, back to you on the bill as amended.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move to advance LB 55 as amended to E & R for Review. I hardly knew my bill when it came out of the committee. I had one idea and they thrashed it around quite a while and it became something else. I'm not in disagreement with it as it is, puts a limitation and I think it's reasonable and I think it's something that everyone can live with.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion now on the bill? Question is, shall LB 55 as amended be advanced from General File to E & R Initial? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. You are voting on the advancement of LB 55 from General File to E & R Initial and I suppose it's superfluous for the chair to mention that it still takes 25 votes in order to move the bill. Once again the chair would ask if you have all voted. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 5 nays, 9 not voting--19 not voting.

PRESIDENT: 55 is advanced. That brings up LB 477.

CLERK: Reads title. There are no committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Schmidt.

SENATOR SCHMIDT: Mr. Chairman, I move the bill be advanced. This bill, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, provides for \$100,000 of State funds and provides that the counties shall match it with another \$100,000 to be matched by \$200,000 of federal funds to be administered by the Welfare Department in cases of extreme emergency or catastrophic illnesses where the person is not covered by insurance and where the person does not meet the normal welfare needs and it provides that a person does not need to be ground down to a pauper to participate in the program. There have been a few instances in the past in the State of Nebraska where we've been able to employ this type of assistance and some great help and hasn't cost very much money. The Governor and the Department have utilized this federal program several times to greatly relieve the needs in some cases, they have cooperated with me in several instances and relieved extreme hardship and the Governor asked me to introduce the bill and I was happy to do so and I move the bill be advanced to E & R.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the bill? Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, I would not speak in opposition to the bill but I would like to ask Senator Schmidt a question. He mentioned possible catastrophic medical costs. We did include in our proposed budget bill monies for this purpose. Is this the main purpose of the bill and or are there other purposes?

SENATOR SCHMIDT: This is the primary purpose for the bill, Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: I would suggest then if you would you, well, Senator Marsh I think wants to speak on the subject perhaps. I'll yield to her.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I have some input in here. This would cover any catastrophic illness, not just children. Therefore, I feel this is necessary legislation.